

**Success Stories through BJA-funded
ARRA Programs
2/5/2010**

Recovery Act Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Formula Grant Program

- The City of Atlanta, GA shares a Recovery Act JAG award with Fulton County, and the Cities of Alpharetta, College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Hapeville, Roswell, and Union City. The Atlanta Police Department has been able to unfreeze 23 sworn-officer positions to increase police presence. The Atlanta Police Department (APD) observed several benefits in crime reduction and increased public safety. In 2009, for instance, the City was experiencing an ongoing series of on-again, off-again pedestrian robberies on and around its in-town college campuses, including Georgia Tech. The problem is well illustrated in a 10 December 2009 Atlanta Journal-Constitution [news article by Christian Boone](http://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta/tech-students-victimized-by-237197.html) (<http://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta/tech-students-victimized-by-237197.html>).

“Eight uniformed officers were assigned to keep watch over the neighborhoods near Tech and the Atlanta University Center from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. nightly. The officers were joined by an undisclosed number of undercover police, [Atlanta Police Chief Richard] Pennington said. The result? Zone 5 Commander Khirus Williams said that, despite the incidents this month, the APD's plan has worked. The street crimes that have occurred took place when the extra patrols had yet to hit the streets, Williams said. What his zone needs is more overtime pay, more officers -- or both, he said.”

The Recovery Act JAG funds also supported police overtime patrols to institute a strategy called “Operation Hot Spots” across the multiple jurisdictions sharing the Recovery Act JAG funds. On January 22, 2010, Lieutenant Christopher Tiernan, the “Hot Spots Coordinator” of Georgia Tech’s precinct (Zone 5), reported the following:

“Overall Hot Spot was a success in Zone 5. Pedestrian robberies continue to be sharply curtailed in the areas around Atlanta’s college campuses. Prior to the detail, there had been one or two pedestrian robberies a week in the target areas. As an additional benefit, auto larcenies have dropped in the target areas as well. Normally there had been 5-7 larceny from autos each week. That was dropped to 2.”

The new focus for the BJA Recovery JAG funded police overtime patrols will be traffic details in search of stolen vehicles, particularly those being used as transportation to or from a crime.

Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program

- The Georgia Bureau of Investigation-Division of Forensic Sciences (GBI-DOFS) is the primary provider of forensic analysis services for the State of Georgia. The GBI-DOFS is composed of eight laboratory facilities located throughout the state, with a total staffing of approximately 260 scientists, medical examiners and support personnel, completing over 90,000 forensic analyses per year. The FY 2009 Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program funds were used to hire and train forensic

scientists, forensic technicians, and to purchase scientific instrumentation necessary for the training of these individuals and enhancing the criminal justice system through more robust forensic science service delivery by GBI-DOFS. The grant funds allowed the grantee to hire 19 total personnel at the GBI Crime Lab. Fifteen new scientists and 4 laboratory technicians were hired between Nov. 15, 2009 and Jan 4, 2010. The technicians have nearly completed their training and will begin positively impacting laboratory operations within the next 60 days. The scientists are on or ahead of schedule for their training programs.

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